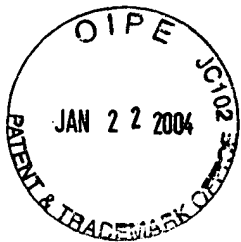


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of

Budaragin, Leonid

Serial No.: 09/835,453

Filed: April 16, 2001

For: COATINGS FOR METAL CUTTING TOOLS

Art Unit: 1762

Examiner: Barr

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on Jan 20 2004 with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Mail Stop AF, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Kathleen Bennett  
Kathleen Bennett

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450 MS Issue Fee  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attorney Docket No. R3990/252636

**WRITTEN ASSERTION OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.27(g)**

Sir:

Applicant, through the undersigned attorney, asserts that the above-identified patent application is entitled to small entity status.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce D. Gray  
Reg. No. 35,799

Date: Jan 20, 2004

Kilpatrick Stockton LLP  
1100 Peachtree Street  
Suite 2800  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530  
(404) 815-6218